



## CALIFORNIA OCEAN PROTECTION COUNCIL

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Mike Chrisman, Secretary for Resources, Council Chair  
Cruz Bustamante, Lieutenant Governor  
Alan Lloyd, Secretary for Environmental Protection  
Sheila Kuehl, State Senator, Ex officio Member  
Pedro Nova, State Assemblymember, Ex officio Member

November 15, 2005

James Connaughton  
Chair, Committee on Ocean Policy  
Council on Environmental Quality  
722 Jackson Place, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Chairman Connaughton,

I am writing on behalf of the California Ocean Protection Council. At its September 23, 2005 meeting, the council adopted the enclosed *California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy* (IRO). The IRO identifies the ocean and coastal information, research, and outreach priorities for the state of California. A major objective of the IRO is to ensure that state information and research needs are included in the National Ocean Research Priorities Plan and Implementation Strategy. We respectfully submit the IRO to you and urge you to consider its priorities in the development of the national plan.

As you suggested when we last met, I have begun discussion with agency representatives in the states of Oregon and Washington to coordinate regional ocean management issues for the West Coast. The first objective will be to develop regional research priorities. The Resources Agency Assistant Secretary for Ocean and Coastal Policy, Brian Baird, is serving on the Federal-State Task Team on Research Priorities (Task Team) assembled to advise the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (JSOST) on the development of this federal plan. We have been informed that a draft of the federal plan will be completed by December 2005. Assistant Secretary Baird will work with the Task Team to include West Coast research priorities in its recommendations to JSOST. Please let us know if there are other means through which we should be providing input to the federal plan.

I commend you on your efforts to address the recommendations of the U.S. Commission of Ocean Policy (USCOP) through the implementation of the U.S. Ocean Action Plan. California stands ready to help your Committee on Ocean Policy achieve the vision set forth by the USCOP.

Sincerely,



Mike Chrisman  
Secretary for Resources  
Chair, California Ocean Protection Council

cc:

Kathie Olsen, OSTP, Co-Chair, ICOSRMI  
Kameran Onley, CEQ, Co-Chair, SIMOR; Acting Co-Chair, ISOCORMI  
Dr. David Halpern, OSTP, Co-Chair, JSOST  
Dr. Margaret Leinen, NSF, Co-Chair, JSOST  
Dr. Richard Spinrad, DOPC/NOAA, Co-Chair, JSOST  
Mary Glackin, NOAA, Co-Chair, SIMOR  
Diane Regas, EPA, Co-Chair, SIMOR  
Chris Kearney, DOI, Co-Chair, SIMOR  
Dr. Ellen Prager, Chair, ORAP  
Dr. Stephen Weisberg, Co-Chair, ORAP  
Phillip Hinesley, Chair, Coastal States Organization  
Katherine Andrews, Executive Director, Coastal States Organization  
Governor Mike Huckabee, Chair, National Governor's Association  
Governor Janet Napolitano, Chair, Western Governor's Association  
Admiral James Watkins, Chair, United States Commission on Ocean Policy  
Leon Panetta, Chair, Pew Oceans Commission  
California Congressional Delegation  
Coastal States' Governors

Enclosure:

California Ocean and Coastal Information, Research, and Outreach Strategy